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LETTER DATED 27 NOVEMBER 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I wish to state the following:

In the morning of 18 November 1991, the Head of the Iraqi Interests Section in Washington was summoned by Mr. David Mack of the United States Department of State, in the presence of the official responsible for the Iraq Desk in the United States Department of State. The Head of the Iraqi Interests Section was handed an unofficial paper containing points for discussion, including the allegation that the Government of Iraq had failed to comply with regard to the return of Kuwaiti military equipment transported to Iraq. The United States Department of State also gave the Iraqi Interests Section a list of that military equipment (copy annexed hereto), and the United States official claimed that Iraq had not fulfilled its obligations to hand over that equipment.

The Ambassador of France raised the same issue with us on 22 November 1991.

We express our astonishment at the American behaviour in question. It is as though Washington were responsible for following up the implementation of Security Council resolutions, particularly with regard to the return of Kuwaiti assets, not the United Nations or the Secretary-General and his representative, Mr. Foran. We wish on this occasion to refer to some facts that are documented with the United Nations and Mr. J. Richard Foran as a rebuttal of those American allegations and also so that you may take cognizance of them. They are as follows:

I. Iraq has expressed its full readiness to cooperate with Mr. Foran, Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and coordinator for the return of the assets transported from Kuwait, including military equipment, and also to cooperate with the United Nations team currently in Baghdad. Iraq, for its part, has prepared and made available all kinds of facilities for implementation and is continuing to furnish such cooperation with ongoing efforts. One example is the field visits to military camps and airbases for inspection of the military assets and equipment and aircraft made ready for

handing over. Another is Mr. Foran's visit to the region from 3 to 7 November 1991 and his field inspection of the aircraft that the Iraqi side has stated its readiness to hand over.

II. We have sent Assistant Secretary-General Foran a number of telegrams expressing the readiness of the Iraqi side to hand over the military equipment, including some of the items contained in the list that the United States official handed to the Head of the Iraqi Interests Section (such as Chieftain and Centurion tanks and Vickers tanks), as follows:

1. M109 self-propelled guns

   AMX F3 self-propelled guns

   BTT/CVA gun support vehicle (within the AMX F3 system)

   A-4 aircraft

   Mirage F-1 aircraft (destroyed, as the United Nations representative in Baghdad was informed by Iraq at the time)

   Hawk MK 64 aircraft (five fit for handing over, two damaged, three destroyed - our telegram No. 3626 of 20 November 1991 to our New York Mission)

2. On 12 July 1991, Iraq sent a letter by fax No. 10/687/A/92851 to Mr. Foran stating the readiness of the Iraqi side to hand over the items prepared and Iraq's readiness to follow the same procedures as in the hand-over of the aircraft.

3. On 15 July 1991, Iraq sent letter No. 1164 by fax to Mr. Foran, confirming the readiness of the Iraqi side to hand over the military equipment on the basis of the talks conducted by the United Nations representative in Baghdad on 1 July 1991.

III. The United Nations representative in Baghdad, at his meeting with the Iraqi side at the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 16 May 1991, confirmed the position with regard to the aircraft removed from Kuwait and ready for handing over by Iraq after repairs by the Iraqi side. That has also been confirmed earlier by the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations in New York in March 1991 by a letter addressed to you on this subject.

From all of the above, [illegible]hat Iraq has cooperated with the Assistant Secretary-General and [illegible] return of the above-mentioned equipment. An effort is currently [illegible]nder way, in coordination with the United Nations representative in Baghdad, to carry out arrangements for the return of that equipment as it is made ready, and Iraq is fulfilling its obligations in this regard.

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With regard to the military equipment transported from Kuwait, the Iraqi side is prepared to hand over the portion that is ready, lists of which were handed over at the appropriate time. We await the reply of the Kuwaiti side, through the United Nations coordinator, Mr. Foran, or his representative currently in Baghdad for agreement on the manner, time and place of the hand-over, which will be followed by the preparation of other, new lists of assets ready for handing over.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abdul Amir A. AL-ANBARI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Chieftain tanks

Centurion and Vickers tanks

BMP-11 infantry fighting vehicles

Fahd type armoured personnel carriers

M-113 armoured personnel carriers

M 109 self-propelled guns

AMX F3 self-propelled guns

BTT/CVA gun support vehicles

FROG SSM missile systems

A-4 aircraft

Mirage F-1 aircraft

Hawk MK G-1 aircraft

Puma or Super Puma helicopters

I-Hawk surface-to-air missile systems

SA-S SAM systems

Skyguard SAM systems

35 mm AAA Oerlikon guns

Skyguard fire-control radar

AIM-9-11 air-to-air missiles

LASS radar

KASS IBM computer system

Mark 84 bombs

Mark 82 bombs

Mark 20 bombs

ZUNI 20 missiles

The response of the Head of the Iraqi Interests Section was that Iraq is faithful to the obligations which it assumed under United Nations resolutions and is bound by them.